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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

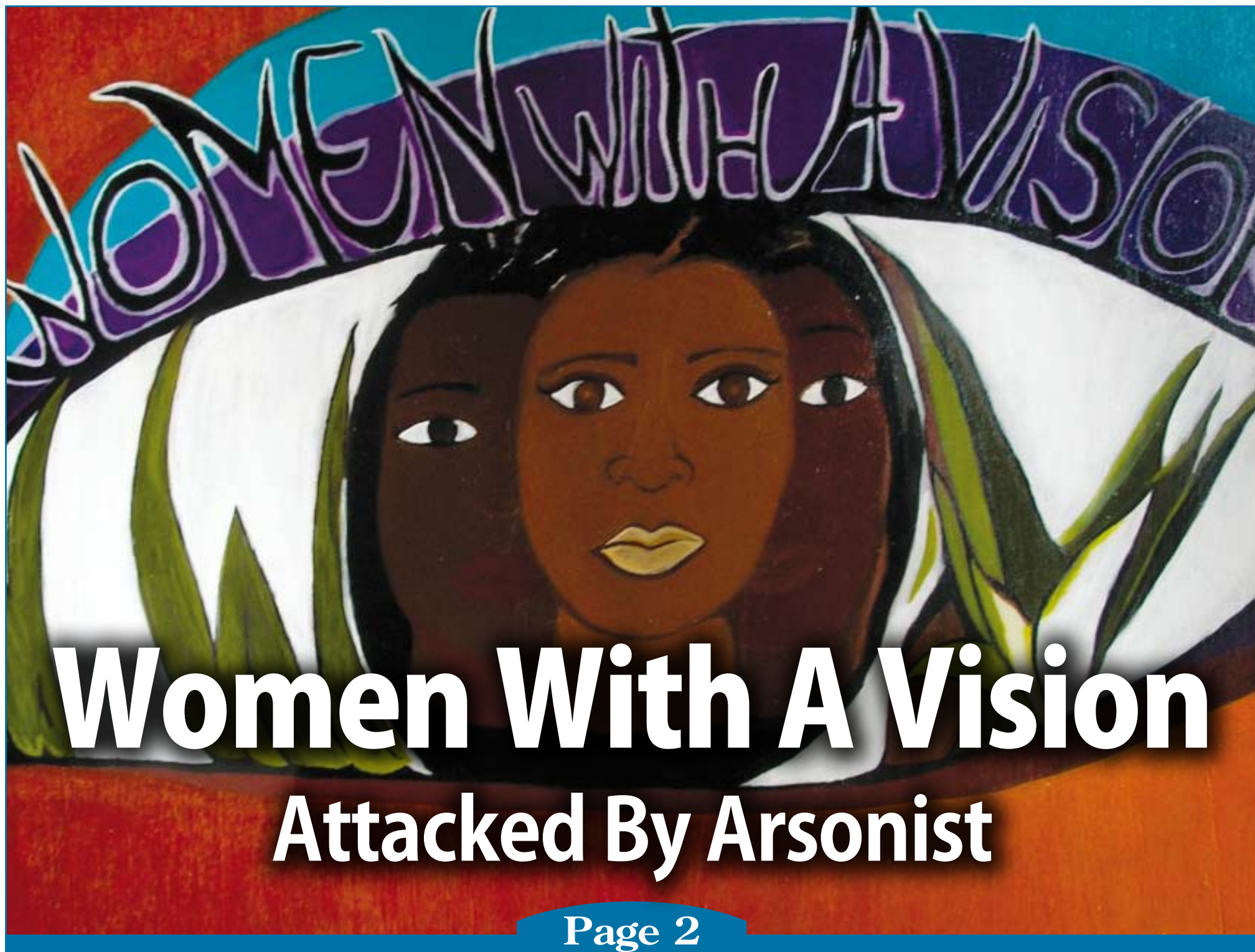
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Sidney's Water Wonderland

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June 2 - June 8, 2012 47th Year Volume 5 www.ladatanews.com



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Arson Attack on Women’s Health Organization in New Orleans



Pictured are the charred remains of the offices of Women With A Vision New Orleans. The mission of Women With A Vision is to improve the lives of marginalized women, their families, and communities by addressing the social conditions that hinder their health and well-being.

By Jordan Flaherty

Women With a Vision (WWAV), a New Orleans advocacy and service organization that provides crucial health care and other support for poor women of color, was the victim of a break-in and arson late Thursday night, May 24. A small organization that has won a national reputation for their work, WWAV was founded in 1991 by a collective of Black women as a response to a lack of HIV prevention resources for those women who were the most at risk: poor women, sex workers, women with substance abuse issues, and transgender women.

WWAV has made national news for leading the fight against Louisiana’s Crime Against Nature Statute, which targeted poor women of color, transgender women, and anyone forced to trade sex for food or a place to sleep at night. The law forced women to register as sex offenders in a state database and placed a “sex offender” label on their drivers license, among other requirements. With the grassroots leadership of WWAV, a national coalition that also included Center for Constitutional Rights, Loyola Law School, and police misconduct attorney Andrea Ritchie was able to get the law off the books through legislative action, and won a series of further victories in the process of removing the sex offender registration requirements for those convicted in the past.

Most recently, on April 11, federal Judge Martin Feldman of the US District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana declared that requiring individuals convicted under Louisiana’s “Crime Against Nature” law to register as sex offenders is unconstitutional. He ordered the state to cease and desist from placing any individuals convicted of a Crime Against Nature on the registry and to remove the plaintiffs from the registry within 30 days. The state has agreed not to appeal the judge’s order.

The decision made headlines both locally and nationally, and Ms. Haywood had spoken widely about her struggle and the often heart-breaking obstacles faced by the women she works with. Haywood had even been named Queen of the Krewe DuVieux parade in this

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

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year's carnival, in recognition of her leadership and tireless work. Some allies of the organization have speculated that the group was targeted because of its very public – and successful – advocacy on behalf of women who have been demonized by politicians and media.

The attack comes in the context of a national climate of hostility towards women's healthcare, including radio host Rush Limbaugh's slurs against a young college student who testified in support of health coverage for contraception, and a series of break-ins and arsons on women's health clinics in Atlanta. The most recent Atlanta arson was just days before the attack in New Orleans, and the FBI is looking into the Atlanta cases.

The attack on WAV seemed to be political and directly targeted the crucial information, files, and materials needed for their work. According to an email from Bill Quigley, a social justice attorney and friend of the organization, "Major fire damage was done to a room which contained education and outreach materials. The arsonist seemed to have deliberately targeted this room. Destroyed were: three plastic and silicone breast models which were used to help people learn how to do self-examinations for breast cancer; a plastic pelvic model of a vagina; a two feet by one and a half foot plastic model of a woman's reproductive system; boxes of male and female condoms; flip charts demonstrating the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV; several wooden penises which were used for condom demonstration; and boxes of educational materials. The fires in that room seem to have been set with some accelerant and scorched the walls, ceiling fan and ceiling and destroyed everything in the room....The offices were ransacked leaving drawers pulled out and papers and files on the floor. A TV and a laptop were taken but many valuables were left including computer monitors, office equipment, even some beer left over from a reception held earlier in the week. Several small

fires were started inside the offices, in the bathroom, the hallway and in a sitting room."

The office, on Jeff Davis in Mid-city, had been a space where many women dropped in for health care supplies, clothing, advocacy, or just a friendly ear. Organizers with WWAV and their allies worry about the effect that the loss of this space will have on the community. "They really got the room at our office that they thought was at the heart of our work, and so really feel it was intentional," commented WWAV Executive director Deon Haywood. "More than anything, I'm concerned about our clients not having a place to come," she added.

News of the attack has sent shockwaves across social justice communities around the US, and offers of help and donations have been coming in, but much more is needed. The fires have put the organization out of business at that location. They are seeking emergency temporary new quarters, as well as donations of clothing, supplies, and more. The organization has released a letter that lays out many of their needs, which can be viewed on the group's website.

On Tuesday, dozens of volunteers came through to help the organization move out of their offices throw out what had been damaged in the fire. For now, much of their supplies are being moved into temporary storage as they seek a temporary location to be able to continue to serve the daily needs of their clients, as well a long-term space. In a video released on Friday afternoon WWAV executive director Deon Haywood showed the damage and discussed the effect it has had on her. While she stressed that this time has been incredibly difficult and traumatic, Haywood concluded by declaring "We are fighters, we are warriors here at Women With a Vision, and we continue our work."

Jordan Flaherty is a journalist based in New Orleans, a producer for Al Jazeera, and the author of the book *Floodlines: Community and Resistance From Katrina to the Jena Six*.



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The Ogden Museum of Southern Art announces Louisiana Contemporary

Presented by Regions Bank
A statewide, juried exhibition of contemporary art

Recognizing the need to engage a contemporary audience that appreciates the vibrant visual culture of Louisiana and the role of New Orleans as a rising, international art market, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art is organizing Louisiana Contemporary presented by Regions Bank, a statewide, juried exhibition. The exhibition will open on White Linen Night, Sat. August 4, 2012. It will be on view through September 24, 2012.

"Regions Bank is proud to be part of The Ogden's inaugural juried exhibition for Louisiana artists," says Scott Howard, City President and Commercial Executive of Regions Bank. "The event will bring to the fore some of our best talent, emerging and established. It will become a signature event for the museum, attracting art lovers from all over the country. I can't think of a more fitting program for The Ogden, the premier venue of Southern art."

"The Ogden Museum of Southern Art takes this opportunity with Louisiana Contemporary to pay distinct attention to the art and artists who have dedicated their energy to living and working in the state of Louisiana. This exhibition allows us to show both established and emerging artists across the state, and to promote



the presence of the artist in our midst," says Ogden Museum Director William Andrews. "It seems fitting that we launch this exhibition during the celebration of the Louisiana Bicentennial. We believe that the impact of historic art can be heightened by a comparison of the art of today. The power of both contemporary and historic work is elevated when in close proximity to one another."

In its inaugural year, this annual event promotes contemporary art practices in the state of Louisiana and provides exhibition space for the exposition of living artist's work. The exhibition also coincides with the celebration

of the Bicentennial of Louisiana Statehood.

All media is eligible, and any artist living in Louisiana is eligible to enter. A nonrefundable \$35 fee is required, and artists may submit up to three entries; \$10 for each additional entry in excess of three. Up to \$1,500 in awards will be presented to participating artists, including a \$500 Best of Show cash award.

For a complete list of requirements, please go to: www.LouisianaContemporary.org. Deadline for entries is Monday, July 2, 2012.

Meet Your New Career In New Orleans

*National Urban League's
three-day Career Fair*



New Orleans sets the stage for the biggest Conference of the year connecting top employers to talented candidates, savvy entrepreneurs to economic opportunities and the hottest entertainment by night.

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Be the first to visit the new Conference microsite to register and

get your networking game plan on:

Small Business Matters, a free one-day entrepreneurship summit on Saturday, July 28, featuring interactive workshops and valuable resources.

Explore the Expo Hall with star-studded seminars and local entertainment.

Share the fun with friends and family at the I Am EMPOWERED photo booth.

Don't miss confirmed guests: Chaka Khan, Stevie Wonder, Kim Fields, Reverend Al Sharpton, Ambassador Andrew Young, and Wendell Pierce.

Let's get down to business in New Orleans and build the country together.

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Data News Weekly



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Master Gardener's Corner

Bountiful Gardens



By MG Calla Victoria

More and more residents are opting to grow their own food because of rising prices and many scares at the grocery. Last year it was killer cantaloupe, and contaminated lettuce, this year its ground beef. Therefore, crop fields, orchards, and chicken coops are popping up in gardens all over America; hence the new term "Urban Farmer." First Lady Michelle Obama has championed the idea of harvesting your own food, and has facilitated the planting of a vegetable garden on the White House Grounds.

I was considering a chicken coop but my neighbor beat me to it, so now I am the lucky one. I get all of the large brown farm fresh eggs that I can eat, Samson, my neighbor's rooster, announces the break of dawn every morning at 5 a.m.; and I get all of the rich chicken manure

to fertilize my garden, and it did not cost me a thing! In the past I have grown eggplants, cucumbers, broccoli, tomatoes, bell peppers, lettuces, strawberries, hot peppers, mustard greens, okra, collard greens, corn, sweet potatoes, cabbage, basil, rosemary, oregano, carrots, and grapes; and had a yard full of watermelons. My orchard consists of a lemon tree, Meyer lemon tree, key lime tree, pomegranate tree, a fig tree, tangelo, satsuma, orange tree, grape vine, and three passion fruit vines. There is nothing more satisfying than going out to your own backyard and harvesting fruits and vegetables that you grew. You feel secure with the produce because you know what was placed in the soil and on the fruit. There are no added preservatives to extend the shelf life of your fruits and vegetables,

and the flavor is so much more intense than those purchased from grocery stores. There is no comparison on the cost either, for one bag of seed that may cost you \$1 you will have more food than you could ever eat, but many organizations give away free seeds. Or even if you bought a seedling (small plant) for a couple of dollars, that seedling is going to produce so much more than you could eat. The last time I saw eggplant at the market it was \$2 per pound, and any decent eggplant is going to be about 3 pounds so you are talking \$6 per eggplant. However, you could buy the seedling for \$2 and have eggplants to give away; the sheer economics of the situation makes it crazy not to grow your own. Because the yield is so great, most "urban farmers" plant a row for donations to homeless shelters

and food banks, which is such a wonderful idea.

You don't need to have a large plot of land to have bounty in your garden. Vegetables grow very well in containers. You can grow bell peppers, tomatoes, and eggplants in containers if you are tight on space. I am growing tomatoes in a container, and I have a bay laurel (Bay leaf tree) that has been thriving in a container for the past three years. Also you can enter-plant vegetables and herbs with flowers in your garden. Plant herbs near your rose bushes as they both require dry soil and full sun, so you don't have to dig up other plantings to add vegetables. Now if you just don't see yourself as an urban farmer, you can still have garden fresh vegetables by supporting the many farmers markets in our area, or you can get involved in a community garden near you, put in some

volunteer hours and make groceries. One does not have to look far to find urban farmers, and community gardens are popping up everywhere. There is the Holmgrove Garden, Grow Dat Youth Farm in City Park, Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative has a community garden on the corner of Sixth and Dryades Streets, there is a community garden on Filmore and Elysian Fields, also several schools are adding veggie gardens and teaching students to grow their own food.

June is "Eat Local" month and the Farm and Food Network is asking that you eat local and you can do this by supporting your local farmers markets. On the Food and Farm Network's website, www.noffn.org, you can find the listing of all farmers markets in our area. Also you can pick up free seeds at NOFFN's office at 4840 Banks.

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Sidney's Water Wonderland

Sidney Chase celebrates first birthday with an a11-day water experience held at the home of her grandparents Sidney and Vaughn Fauria. The party was given by Sidney's proud parents Gretchen and Edgar Chase IV.



I Do!



Willie Navarre and Ashley Marie Hoard recently celebrated their wedding last Sunday with parents Willie Navarre Sr. and Stephanie Navarre along with John and Althea Hoard
photos by Daviller Photography and Graphics



If you have photos of parties or events you would like to run in DATA, please send to datanewsad@bellsouth.net for inclusion.

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Media Matters in the 21st Century



Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

By Edwin Buggage

In recent news it was announced that our city's general news daily the Times Picayune will cease printing a daily paper in the Fall and will publish papers only on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday and concentrate on increasing their online presence. The owners the non-local Advance Publications, a media conglomerate with holdings across the country in newspapers, magazines, cable tv and websites recently made this announcement. It was a story that's made national news as the Times Picayune has published a daily newspaper for over 175

years and with these proposed cuts it is the largest metro newspaper in the nation to drop daily printed circulation. This in spite of it having the highest circulation per capita of any U.S. metro city daily newspaper, so you may ask why is the editor of another publication in the same market would I write about this? And I simply say because as we are in the age of an information revolution more than ever media matters.

While it is true that changes in technology have made it easier for people to get information, conversely, I would argue it is also easier for people to get misinformation. So it is important that many of the institutions that have built solid reputations and brand identities continue to publish even if it means less frequently. It is my feeling that fly by night organizations that do what I call microwave news and reporting does a disservice to the craft and dishonor the integrity of many of the greats of news reporting and writings such as Edward R. Mur-

row, Walter Lippmann, Ben Bradlee, Bob Woodward, Leonard Pitts and many others who have used their skills to open our eyes via media whether it was newspapers, radio, television and today online.

As we have entered into the second decade of the 21st century it is a fact that advances in technology have changed the way we take in information, and I feel it is more important than ever for citizens to develop new skills sets in and new forms of media literacy that creates an environment for a more informed society to combat the off the glut misinformation that litters the internet. For example there are people who still believe that President Barack Obama is not an American Citizen based on misinformation circulated online. Cases like this are an example of the danger of so much information flowing online, unchecked passing off as credible for some. And this is not simply just online bloggers or nutcases who are single issue zealots looking for infor-

mation to support many of their narrowly focused positions.

This is a problem when business interest supersede that of a people and community and this type of market fragmentation creates something that does not serve the community. I feel that what happens in this scenario it is those who have less access or the desire to embrace technology via, our elderly population and those who are less tech savvy will lose out in this scenario. Therefore, it is important that the print media for now continues to be important and institutions where some checks and balances still are in place and you can say with some level of certainty that a story has went through the filters to get to a certain level of truth.

As I understand that many print publications are transitioning into the digital age, it is undeniably important that their mission continue. That is to create a more informed public, and give voice to issues that affect a community. Data News Weekly as an

institution that have been serving the community for over 45 years and nearly seven of which I have served as editor we understand the importance of the integration of print and digital media. It is because of this marriage that during our darkest days of Katrina and its aftermath we were able to reach our readers wherever they were and help mobilize citizens and keep them abreast of what was going on in the city. Something we continue to do as all of our citizens have not returned and our mission have become more essential in serving our community.

Today we at Data News understand it is our charge to continue to give people news they can use from a source that they have come to trust. In these fragile unstable times, it is essential that people do not fall prey to what some media have become, mouthpieces for partisanship and narrow ideas or at worst infotainment, where it looks like information but is more

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Democrats Flip African Americans on Gay Marriage



Muhammad Yungai
Data News Contributor

The President of the United States has come out in favor of "gay" marriage. He is the first to do so and just happens to be the first African-American president. He is also a Democrat. His statements seem to constitute marching orders for all Democrats and indeed for African-American leadership which has been solidly behind him. This leadership is now proclaiming that gay marriage is a civil rights issue and is politi-

cally "correctly" using gay activists' rhetoric that; supporting gay marriage is supporting "equality". This is based on the old rubric that Blacks, who have experienced discrimination and marginalization should know what it's like and be able to empathize with any group who has experienced similar treatment.

Yet, all groups are not the same. Some groups experience different treatment based upon different circumstances and history. Sometimes this disparate treatment is justified. For example, historically people have been forcefully quarantined when they had communicable diseases. There are many other examples of people experiencing different levels of treatment for good reasons.

Personally, I don't believe that gay people should be treated with bias or malice but that doesn't mean that they have any "right"

to get married. The idea that two people should be able to get married simply because they have love and commit to each other is lethally flawed. There are millions of people of the same sex who have love for each other and would even die for one another. These are called friends. There is no provision for conjugal relations here! To be blunt, no governing institution in the history of any society has ever officially sanctioned sexual relations between people of the same gender.

Some might argue that things never before experienced are portents of a new age. But all newfangled notions are not necessarily good. In this case, it is quite obvious that same gender sex is unnatural and goes against the design of the human body. In fact universal law dictates that opposites attract and cause a dynamic tension which produces a new

energy. In the case of magnetism or electricity, the charges created are very useful to us. In the case of human beings, babies are produced.

But modern man has become the artificial man. We live largely in an artificially produced, man-made environment, eat much artificial food, use artificial intelligence and are even prodigiously having artificial cosmetic surgeries done to our bodies. We have moved so far into this unnatural realm that many of us now feel entirely comfortable changing the very definition of marriage.

In the United States, the Democratic Party is the primary political champion of this change. Many of its members believe wholeheartedly that this is the right thing to do; end discrimination and promote equality. Blacks, who have been tied to the fortunes of the Democratic Party since the time

of Roosevelt 80 years ago, are now being dragged into the gay marriage scenario. In my opinion, we have much more important things to worry about such as crime, the "prison-industrial complex", job and education disparities and other ethnic groups pushing us out of jobs and positions. But the Democrats want to make gay marriage a litmus test as to whether one is a true Democrat. Black leaders have lined up like lemmings, leaping off of the moral high ground that the great Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King tried so hard to establish.

Dr. King's morality was rooted in "the old time religion", which implicitly and explicitly condemns homosexuality. This form of behavior is condemned by all of the major religions as an abomination. Therefore, it is exceedingly

Muhammad, Continued
on page 11.

Smoking Kills

by Dr. Levister
NNPA Columnist

Black Voice News - Some 88,000 men and 70,000 women die from lung cancer each year. For African Americans like disco legend Donna Summer, who recently lost her battle with the disease, the outlook is especially grim.

African American men are 37 percent more likely to develop lung cancer than white men.

For women lung cancer has consistently surpassed breast cancer as the leading cause of cancer death since 1987.

Whether you're addicted to smoking or you want to know the connection between the phrase "quit smoking health benefit" or not, learning about smoking and health is important to making better decisions about smoking or might help you want to quit smoking more. Most smokers are aware of specific risks associated with smoking — cancer,

emphysema, bronchitis — but smoking and health go hand-in-hand, since smoking impacts nearly all aspects of your health.

The cigarette, a legal product when used in the fashion it was designed is an instrument that causes illness and death. As a result of combustion (smoking) over 4000 chemicals are in the mainstream and side stream smoke that are delivered to the airways and absorbed. Sixty-nine of these chemicals plays a direct role in death, disease and impairment throughout the body of the smoker and those nearby.

Smoking is particularly damaging in young people. Evidence shows people who start smoking in their youth — aged 11 to 15 — are three times more likely to die a premature death than someone who takes up smoking at the age of 20.

They are also more likely to be hooked for life. Nicotine, an ingredient of tobacco, is highly



For African Americans like disco legend Donna Summer, who recently lost her battle with the disease smoking is especially devastating.

addictive — it takes on average on about six cigarettes before

nicotine receptors in the brain are switched on, generating a

craving for nicotine which may continue for the rest of the person's life. In less than one packet of cigarettes, a person's brain can be changed forever from that of a non-smoker to a nicotine addicted smoker.

Although the health risks of smoking are cumulative, giving up can yield health benefits, regardless of the age of the patient, or the length of time they have been smoking. Fewer American teenagers and young adults are lighting up as cigarette taxes that have broken the \$3-a-pack threshold in some states make smoking too costly according to the latest National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) a 10 percent increase in the price of cigarettes can reduce consumption almost 4 percent among adults and can have an even greater effect on youth.

Dollars & Sense

How to Spot Personal Debt Scammers

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA Columnist

With so many Americans unemployed or under-employed, the social stigma of debt is not as harsh as it once was. Too many people who have played by the rules and worked all of their lives now find themselves deeply mired in debt. Young consumers, armed with a degree in one hand and student loans in the other, wonder when they can live independent of their parents' financial support. In this still-unfolding financial recovery, family standards of living are faltering, retirements are delayed and both generations worry.

For many consumers, the debt dilemma is akin to a seesaw. One side wonders whether available funds will stretch far enough to pay their bills. The other side worries whether remaining credit can

see them through.

Unfortunately, there are businesses that prey upon consumer financial misfortunes, promising easy solutions to nagging and deep debt. On urban radio and late night television these companies advertise how debt can be settled for pennies on the dollar. Some will even identify the amount of debt consumers must owe before they can "help" them.

Consumers who believe this kind of advertising almost always get scammed. After paying thousands of dollars in fees, they discover that there was never a connection between the monies paid and real debt reduction services. Unfortunately, by the time this epiphany occurs, consumer finances are in worse shape than before. And the debt settlement firm moves on to its next victim.

Consumers using these services are also often told not to speak with their creditors or pay them directly any portion of the debt owed. If the consumer follows the instructions of the debt settlement firm, penalty interest rates — as well as late fees and other charges begin to accrue on the amount originally owed. In the meantime, the creditor often escalates collection efforts as well, sometimes turning the debt over to a collection agency or initiating lawsuits or wage garnishments.

If consumers stop paying their debts, their credit scores fall and make it more difficult to gain credit elsewhere.

These practices have been challenged in private litigation, by state attorney generals and Federal Trade Commission enforcement. With the Consumer

Financial Protection Bureau, consumers have also gained a federal office dedicated to transparency and fairness in debt relief and debt collection.

The Federal Trade Commission advises consumers to guard against fraudulent debt relief firms by avoiding any company that:

Charges any fees before it settles your debts;

Guarantees it can make your unsecured debt go away and stop all debt collection calls or lawsuits;

Tells you to stop communicating with your creditors;

Guarantees that your unsecured debts can be paid off for just pennies on the dollar; and

Refuses to send free information about the services until you provide personal financial infor-

mation, such as credit card account numbers, and balances.

For most people, money has a way of leaving out faster than it comes in. When debt is involved, bills seem to reappear even faster. The better way to resolve unmanageable debt is the simple one: speak directly with your creditors to set up a manageable payment plan. No one is better able to communicate your financial challenges than you. More importantly, no one will work harder to relieve your personal financial stress more than you.

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at: Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org

The New Orleans Trad Jazz Camp for Adults Swings in the French Quarter

The third annual New Orleans Traditional Jazz Camp for Adults will kick off Sunday June 10th at the Bourbon Orleans Hotel in the French Quarter. Campers are attending this uniquely "Only in New Orleans" music camp from 28 states as well as Canada, UK, Argentina, Finland, Scotland, Germany and the Netherlands. The mission of the camp is to promote, perpetuate and preserve the music that was born in the Birthplace of Jazz. The camp was founded in 2009 by Banu Gibson, Leslie Cooper and Nita Hemeter who are all musicians in New Orleans.

This year scholarships have been awarded to 12 local student musicians to attend free of charge.

Campers spend the week in music instruction with some of the finest musicians in the city. Our instructors include: Connie Jones, Ed Polcer, Otis Bazzon, Ray Moore, David Sager, Carl LeBlanc, David Boeddinghaus,



Matt Perrine, Kerry Lewis, Gerald French, Leah Chase, Banu Gibson and special adjunct professor Dan Levinson. Evenings are spent jamming in the clubs or at the hotel.

The weekly activities also include presentations by Jazz Historians at morning breakfast, a performance at Preservation Hall, a huge "Second Line" Parade on Tuesday June 12th starting at 6:30pm through the streets of the French Quarter, a performance of faculty and world renowned clarinetist Dan Levinson at Sung Harbor on Thursday June 14th, a Friday night June 15th concert held at the Grand Ballroom of the Bourbon Orleans Hotel from 7pm until which is free and open to the public and a Traditional Jazz Festival on Saturday June 16th from 11am-4pm at the Palm Court Jazz Café that is also open to the public.

For more information about this program visit www.neworleans-trad-jazz-camp.com

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SUNO Offers Free Housing to Qualifying Summer Bridge Students

For years Southern University at New Orleans has offered educational opportunities for students who may not have previously considered post-secondary studies. And even as SUNO has transitioned from an open admissions institution to adoption of the Louisiana Board of Regents Minimum Regional Standard, the University continues to help more and more people live out their collegiate dreams. A big part of the SUNO mission has been the Summer Bridge Program. The Summer Bridge program is designed for those students who need help in meeting those admissions requirements prior to registration in the fall.

In addition to the academic services the University provides, this year qualifying Summer Bridge participants are eligible for free housing in SUNO's beautiful apartment-style residential



complex. Each of these units comes fully furnished along with a host of other amenities including a computer lab, activity center, on-site postal service, shuttle

service and telephone service.

"While many of our students are commuters it is essential that SUNO continue to build a sense of community and our housing

facility allows us to do that", said Chancellor Victor Ukpolo. "I am certain that many of the Summer Bridge students who take advantage of this free housing will want to return in the fall. The opportunity to live and work alongside their fellow students will help make the college dream become much more real. That's why we want to make summer housing accessible to as many students as possible."

Students who would like to attend the Summer Bridge Program can visit www.suno.edu and click on the Orientation icon or come to the SUNO gymnasium on Wednesday, May 30th at 9:00am. They can also call the Office of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services at 504-286-5015 or 504-231-6064. Students should act quickly as housing spots are limited.

www.suno.edu

Muhammad/ Continued from page 8.

hypocritical for our African American leaders most of whom are cloaked in the attire of "good Christians", to ignore their own teachings from the Bible to accept what would probably be characterized in "Biblical times" as the way of the heathen.

In my opinion, the primary proponents of the "gay rights movement" and "gay marriage" are less than sincere in their concern and solidarity with the plight of the African American community. They are also outlandishly hypocritical and very much less than consistent on the issue of changing the definition of marriage. This is demonstrated by their almost universally stated disdain for polygamy, which, agree or disagree, has been an established practice in history for centuries in much of the world. In fact, the same Old Testament patriarchs, whom they claim to, revere, such as Abraham, Isaac, Moses and many others all, had polygamous marriages.

Our leaders being "turned out" by these people is nothing less than shameful!

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valuable as entertainment. Sort of like the equivalent of professional wrestling, that looks like a sport but is choreographed stunts. We cannot allow our media or sources of information to become this in America. I feel that maybe there will be a time where before we read or encounter news that there will be disclaimers or warning notes, that says this information or misinformation can be hazardous to your mind. In this age of spectacle it seems vitriol and outlandish ideas and trivial and trite things have become what we discuss in a time where there is an opportunity to be more informed than at any time in human history.

I feel with the advent of the digital age we are at a new frontier. A time where people can realize that they are more alike than different. That in this age of expanded media we can realize that people can come together and work to make the world a better place. And I believe this can become a reality if we are to use these new opportunities

to become more informed and break down the barriers that have kept people separated for so long. It is time to break down the walls of ignorance that leads to fear and misunderstanding. In this time we can reverse this trend and begin to build bridges of understanding and cooperation.

So in closing I have mixed feelings about the Times Picayune publishing its paper only three times a week, for I understand they must do what they have to do to survive financially. This is something we all must do, but we all must continue to forge ahead to reach people where they are moving forward whether it is them reading the printed page or digitally. In the 21st century media organizations who have built a relationship with their audiences must continue to be a viable, credible source of information that gives voice to our community. And as we rebuild our great city, for it is us and only us that can shape our destiny and tell our story.

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